

There is much to commend the manual to teachers. The various chapters are prefaced with useful hints on presentation, preparation, and source of materials. The choice of subjects is excellent. The questions are clear, definite, and logical, and they are designed, apparently, to give the pupil training in self-help. It is evident that the author has succeeded in preparing a valuable manual because, in large measure, he has succeeded in omitting non-essentials.

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Jepson's "A Flora of California"\*

The beginnings of an ambitious and important work under the above title have recently appeared from the hand of Dr. Willis Linn Jepson, assistant professor of dendrology in the University of California. The sixty-four pages now published are neither the beginning nor the end of the completed volume or volumes, but are the pages that are concerned with the families that contain most of the Californian trees, the group to which, of late, Professor Jepson has devoted especial attention. It may be assumed that the preceding and intervening pages are in an advanced stage of preparation, otherwise the continuity of pagination might easily meet with serious difficulties. As to the scope of the work, one can at the date of writing simply draw inferences, but the limitation of what is yet to appear in front of the Gymnosperms to thirty-two pages suggests the probability of the inclusion of extended keys to the families and the improbability that a detailed treatment of the Pteridophyta will be attempted. The families of the Gymnosperms that find a place in the pages already published are the Pinaceae, with the genera *Pinus* (17 sp.), *Tsuga* (2 sp.), *Picea* (2 sp.), *Pseudotsuga* (2 sp.), and *Abies* (5 sp.); Taxodiaceae, with the genus *Sequoia* (2 sp.); Cupressaceae, with the genera *Libocedrus* (1 sp.), *Thuja* (1 sp.), *Chamaecyparis* (1 sp.), *Cupressus* (5 sp.), and *Juniperus* (4 sp.); and Taxaceae, with the genera *Taxus* (1 sp.) and *Torreya* (1 sp.). The

\*Jepson, Willis Linn. A Flora of California. Pp. 33-64. f. 1-13; 337-368. f. 61-65. 4 N 1909. Cunningham, Curtiss & Welsh, San Francisco. Price 90 cts. for pp. 33-64; 80 cts. for pp. 337-368.

Gymnosperms, as is well known, have a remarkable development in California both as to number of species and as to the dimensions of individual trees. The botanical traveler on the Pacific Coast is soon impressed by the fact that the Sequoias are not the only "big trees." Professor Jepson gives the maximum height of the redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) as 340 feet; the "big tree" (*Sequoia gigantea*), 325 feet; the lowland fir (*Abies grandis*), 275 feet; the sugar pine (*Pinus Lambertiana*), 250 feet; the yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), 225 feet; the noble fir (*Abies nobilis*), 250 feet; the red fir (*Abies magnifica*) and the white fir (*A. concolor*), 200 feet; the Douglas spruce (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), 200 feet; the tideland spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), 190 feet; the arbor-vitae (*Thuja plicata*), 190 feet; the coast hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), 180 feet; the Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana*), 175 feet; and the incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), 150 feet.

The families treated on pages 337-368 of the second part of Professor Jepson's work are the Salicaceae, with the genera *Salix* (17 sp.) and *Populus* (3 sp.); Betulaceae, with the genera *Alnus* (4 sp.) and *Betula* (2 sp.); Corylaceae, with the single genus *Corylus* (1 sp.); Fagaceae, with the genera *Quercus* (14 sp.), *Pasania* (1 sp.), and *Castanopsis* (2 sp.); Juglandaceae, with the single genus *Juglans* (1 sp.); Myricaceae with the single genus *Myrica* (2 sp.); and Urticaceae, with the genera *Urtica* (3 sp.), *Hesperocnide* (1 sp.) and *Parietaria* (unfinished).

The work includes good half-tones illustrating the general form and habit of selected species of trees and there are also drawings showing some of their less conspicuous diagnostic characters. Keys to genera and species accompany the descriptions. The nomenclature seems to be that of the Vienna Rules. The press-work is excellent, but one notes several small errors in writing or editing. Née appears uniformly and persistently with the accent over the wrong "e"; Endlicher is endowed with a prenominal that is the Latin ablative form of his name as it appears on the title-page of his *Synopsis Coniferarum*; *Thuja* is spelled with a "j" in the key and the bibliographical references but with a "y" in its main position; *Podocarpus* is made to end in "um";

but these and their kind are minor flaws that cannot interfere seriously with the large and helpful part that Professor Jepson's new Flora is bound to play in the study of Californian plants.

MARSHALL A. HOWE

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

NOVEMBER 24, 1909

The meeting was held at the New York Botanical Garden and was called to order by Dr. E. B. Southwick. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, there were only a few members present.

Dr. W. A. Merrill exhibited and described a phalloid found by him near Cinchona, Jamaica, in January, 1909, which is allied to the anomalous genus, *Phallogaster*, described by A. P. Morgan in 1892. A description of this new phalloid was published in *Mycologia* for January. Dr. Merrill prefaced his remarks with a brief account of the most common phalloids in the vicinity of New York and the species known to occur in the island of Jamaica.

Dr. J. K. Small spoke on "Some Recently Naturalized Plants from Southern Florida." This paper will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Bulletin.

Adjourned.

PERCY WILSON,  
*Secretary*

DECEMBER 14, 1909

The meeting was called to order at the American Museum of Natural History, with President Rusby in the chair. Forty-four persons were present. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting for November 24, the resignation of Dr. J. A. Allen, dated November 17, 1909, was presented and accepted.

The announced paper of the evening on "The Reclamation of the Desert in the San Bernardino Valley" was then presented by Dr. Rusby and illustrated by some seventy lantern-slides. The following abstract was prepared by the speaker.